



The Communitarian

August 2011

The *Communitarian* is the monthly newsletter of the
Community Unitarian Universalist Church

2819 W. Sylvester Street
Pasco, Washington 99301
Services begin at 10:30 am

Joy and Service – Right Here! Right Now!

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9:30 am – 12:30 pm

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The deadline for the September issue of *The Communitarian* is August 20th. Submit your input to office@communityuu.org

August 7~
“Making a Sacred Space”

Speaker: Meryl Birn

During this service, we will explore creating a sacred space through singing and chanting. We will be experimenting with Kirtin, a form a chant from the Hindu devotional tradition. We will also explore Bluegrass, drumming, and songs from our own UU tradition. This will be a very active and joyful service, and youth of all ages are encouraged to participate.

Worship Associate: Meryl Birn

Musician: Scott Wilson

August 14~

“How do UU principles, our conscience and our faith's help us look at the world?”

Speaker: Scott Wilson

ESRA H. RES 156, on the Environmental and Social Responsibility Amendment to the Constitution, was proposed on March 9, 2011. It's goals are 1) Protecting the Planet, 2) Increasing citizen's democratic control, 3) Promoting the well-being of citizens. But how? Politics, the planet, citizens, corporations, children and spirit?

Worship Associate: Scott Wilson

Musician: Ellen Fillion

August 21~

“Becoming an Ally”

Speaker: Alex Emig & Jenny Rieke

An ally works to be an agent of social change rather than an agent of oppression. Along the continuum from supporting oppression to confronting oppression, our choices matter. This morning we will focus on how to equip and behave as genuine allies, guided by our UU principles and the Groundworks team of the UUA

Worship Associate: Alex Emig & Jenny Rieke

Musician: Ellen Fillion

August 28~

“Mingling of Waters”

Speaker: CUUC Members & Friends

The Mingling of Waters is CUUC's traditional ritual of gathering at the end of summer to mark the beginning of a new church year.

Everyone is invited to bring water that was collected from summer journeys and experiences (symbolic water welcome) and combine it the water from others. We'll have a chance to share the essence of our stories from this summer, the part that has meaning to us, and reaffirm our bonds of community.

Worship Associate: Meryl Birn

Musician: Mike & Shannon Truex

From Our Minister



Written Offerings

From Rev. Craig Moro



Greetings from Berkeley, California, the home of many architectural wonders! Such houses! Look at that fence, that gate with the custom made fittings! Look at that sculptured wall, carefully molded around a tree, or a natural rock outcropping! And then look at another wonder—the man sleeping on the street or the woman bundled in her car, surrounded by these wonders. Is this a former resident of one of these beautiful houses until a job disappeared and the bank foreclosed? Or is it just that this was the only available overnight parking spot, up in the hillside neighborhoods where there's not so much traffic pressure? The presence of so many homeless people amid such fantastic dwelling places makes the ideas of House and Home loom very large on this visit.

House and Home are filled with so much meaning for us--what kind of home we come from and what kind of home we are making today. Our church community spent some time un-housed a few years ago. (I wouldn't say we were homeless, since we carried a strong sense of "home" with us wherever we brought our boxes of hymnals and RE supplies!) We soon found shelter through the kindness and generosity of Shalom UCC church in Richland. This helped to forge a bond with that congregation which did not diminish when we once again found a house of our own. I think it also helped to make us more sensitive to how important it is for us all to have a roof over our heads.

Shalom Church is now deep into their process of remodeling and expansion, and we may soon be

entering such a process ourselves. I am charmed by the beautiful RE wing shown in the drawings that were shared at our annual meeting. I'm especially delighted by the concept of the courtyard with its lovely water feature! I know that it's a long journey from a drawing to the installation of the last landscaping stone, but I'm confident that you will continue to craft CUUC, House and Home, with the loving care you bring to everything you do.

I'll be on call in Salem for the month of August. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there's something you'd like to talk about. I look forward to see you all in September.

In fellowship,

Craig

Board & Committee News

From the President!

Respectfully Submitted by Dave Comstock



Happy August everyone, I hope you are enjoying this wonderfully cool summer,

I enjoyed Rev Susan Maginn July 10th Sermon "The Other Half of Wholeness". Susan's sermon inspired me to read Andrew Harvey's *The Hope* which I recommend to each of you.

The book includes a poem from Rumi:

The wine of Divine Grace is limitless:

All limits come from the faults of the cup

Moonlight floods the whole sky,

from horizon to horizon.

How much it can fill your room

Depends on how wide you open your windows.

Grant a great dignity my friends, to the cup of your life

Love has designed it to hold his Eternal wine.

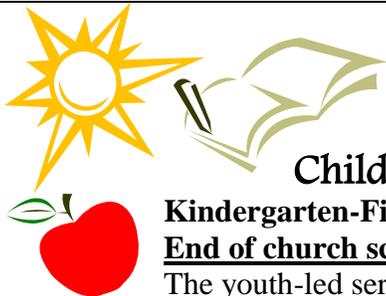
May each of you open your windows wider this summer and fill the cup of your life with the limitless wine of grace.

Board News: We have started our conversation on the church addition. We will do our best to incorporate all of the great suggestion we received and schedule our next discussion in the fall. The board is also working on the Chalice Lighter grant application for HVAC upgrade and we plan to have that submitted in early August. The board is also looking for ideas to help market our beautiful church as a rental location for weddings, concert and the like. If you have any marketing ideas please let the board know. Have a great summer.

David Comstock

Peace and Blessings to each of you

Religious Education Children & Youth



RE Children's Program

**Kindergarten-Fifth grade:
End of church school year**

The youth-led service and Bridging Ceremony on June 11 was one of the highlights of the year for me. The sketch about UU Billy Goats Gruff crossing our local Cable Bridge was absolutely hilarious. The heartfelt homilies were very touching (also with moments of humor), and the music and esthetics were great. A very well put together, as well as a very moving, service. Thanks to all the yUuth who contributed, and to their advisors. And once again, congratulations to our bridging youth, Sean Truex and Cass Excell! (Thanks also to Clarity Botu, who created cards with meaningful sayings and decorative stickers for each high school yUuth during the service.)

The middle school class wrapped up with a short hike to the Twin Sisters rock formation, followed by a picnic. Middle school teacher Marla Marvin organized the outing. She reports:

All seven of the Middle School students attended the year-end hike and picnic at Twin Sisters Rock near Wallula Gap. The weather was perfect, the wildflowers gorgeous, the kids and chaperones well-behaved, the hike not too strenuous, but fairly adventurous (for those who wanted adventure), the information on the Ice Age Floods not new to most, but always amazing to contemplate and consider in an area like Wallula Gap, and the picnic well-received with a balanced diet of junk and non-junk food. Good luck to Bentley and Jack who are headed to high school next year. Thanks for a great year all of you Middle School students and teachers.

Thanks to Marla and to Denise Pitts, who gave each middle school student a journal and pen so they can keep journaling over the summer.

Also on June 11, we celebrated our volunteer teachers, youth advisors and nursery-preschool caretakers in a Teacher Appreciation ceremony. The Kindergarten-5th grade class made and baked chalice-shaped sugar cookies for the teachers. They enjoyed rolling out and cutting the cookie dough (and those who were able to stay late enough after church on May 29 got a free sample!) Thanks to all our volunteers, including our many assistant teachers and caregivers. We couldn't have a religious education program without you! I especially appreciate the quality of your work. Your dedication helps our children and youth develop their faith and become full-fledged Unitarian Universalists.

Vickie Fausz reported on the end-of-year activities of our high school YUuth Group:

Credos, values, things of worth, and bridging were the main focus of activities and conversations during the June

gatherings of the YUUth Group. At a church overnighter on June 10, they took ideas that had already been shared within the group to create a youth-led service for the congregation. Rehearsing went on throughout the early morning hours of the following day when the youth advisors found themselves crashing at 5 A.M ! As for the youth, very few of them slept for long. The service "rocked," literally, from the music played by Sean Truex and his dad as well as from the djembe drums and percussion instruments played by all in the YUUth Group. Two of the YUUth graduated this year and were presented with gifts during the bridging ceremony.

Summer classes

Nursery-Preschool care: We hope to provide nursery-preschool care throughout the summer, so that parents can enjoy the service. Many families go "church shopping" during the summer when their schedules are lighter. The opportunity to explore our religion while knowing their kids are well cared for will help church shoppers decide whether or not this is the place for them. Please volunteer if you enjoy caring for young children (you will need to pass a background check first). There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary.

Summer classes for ages 4-8: Older kids can join the class if they wish, although the curriculum is aimed at preschoolers and early elementary school children. We are teaching the kids about Unitarian Universalism and Social Justice, with lessons from the Church of the Larger Fellowship. These are simpler lessons than we use during the church school year, adapted for the smaller, younger group. Usually there is a single concept or principle to be explored and one or two activities or two (craft, story or game).

Volunteers are also welcome to invent their own lesson, so you can indulge your creativity. Please check with me or a member of the Religious Education Committee first for feedback if you do;

it's easy to plan something too complicated to complete in the time available, and we can help make it workable. Committee members are Vickie Fausz and Jennifer Comstock.

We need volunteers to teach summer Sundays. If you're interested in possibly teaching once or twice this summer, please sign up in the back of the Sanctuary or contact me for more information. This is a good opportunity to try out teaching in a relaxed and easy format, if you're interested in working with youngsters but not in committing to being a regular teacher. Pairs and couples are encouraged to volunteer together, or we can arrange for an experienced assistant to work with you.

Young Adult Group

An organizational meeting for a Young Adult Group for ages 18-25 is planned for Saturday evening, September 17. At this meeting we plan to brainstorm ideas for the group (and possibly share some pizza). If you are a young adult, please save the date. The Religious Education Committee is currently considering the proposal to start this new group. We have a "Culture of 'Yes'" and will likely approve the proposal at our next meeting. Ideas so far include a further exploration of personal credos, a regular movie night, and community service. Graduates of the Interfaith Youth Group may be invited to join. Cass Excell, Reverend Moro and I are working on the planning, and anyone who's interested can contact one of us. This is an exciting development, and we will keep you posted on its progress.

Peace Walk planned for September

Interfaith Youth Group is teaming with World Citizens for Peace to organize and plan a community-wide Peace Walk on Saturday, September 10, 2011. Faith houses along the walk route, as well as those already involved in interfaith activities, will be invited to participate or contribute their help to make this event a success. Donations will be taken to raise funds for several social justice organizations. Walkers will choose where to send their donations.

The Interfaith Youth Group will supply water or snacks for walkers. Two vans will also be needed to help pick up walkers at times along the route, which spans from Shalom United Church of Christ in Richland to the Tri-Cities Islamic Center on Bombing Range Road. Any help from members of CUUC will be appreciated in obtaining the above items or making donations for supplies. More information will come as the event approaches.

Hospitality

No Souper Sunday Until Fall!



There will be no Souper Sunday during the summer, we will continue in the Fall.



Green Sanctuary CUUC Green Sanctuary Paper Project!

We have started with the electronic distribution of our monthly newsletter. Now it is time to continue reducing our paper use and use more recycled paper product. We plan to dive into the bathroom next.

We are working on re-usable towels for hand drying. Whites at our house are always the smallest loads so we will not have any extra loads to clean the hand towels each week. So we will not be increasing our water or electricity consumption to clean the hand towels. In addition, the detergents we use are environmentally friendly and super concentrated to reduce packaging. We are also working on Seventh Generation 100% recycled tissue paper. If every household in the US used 12 rolls that would save 3.8 million trees, 1.3 billion gallons of water and 9.8 million cubic feet of landfill space.

Thanks
David Comstock

Hands & Heart



The Hands and Hearts Committee would like to remind you that we are here to help, not just for big events where we all cry or laugh, but also for the little things as well. We are here to help you out in any way we can. You can seek us out at church (our name tags have the heart stickers) or call us up at home. (If one of us doesn't answer, keep on trying other numbers). If you know of somebody who needs looked in on, or if you want to discuss your own situation, please give us a ring. Bev is our card person, if you know someone who needs to receive a Get-Well Card, Sympathy card, etc. please contact her.

Alice Strumski (509)	488-2527
Jennifer Comstock	628-8638
Vickie Fausz	783-7797
	531-8469
Jo Lindenmeier	586-3451
	366-3953
Marla Marvin	545-1919
Jenny Rieke	545-0659
Bev Schroeder	371-1572
Gail Taff	375-3293

Women's Luncheon!

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

@12:00p.m.

Submitted by Sharon Faletti



Women's Luncheon's will be the brown-bag picnic format for the duration of the summer. We'll meet at the east end of Lee Blvd. just to the right of the turn-around. Please save a table near the river if you are there first. In case of inclement weather, we will meet in the lobby area of the Community Center located south of the tennis courts.

For questions, call Sharon Faletti or Bev Schroeder

interested and we will schedule a date that works for the group.

David Comstock

Other News

NO NEWS!!

CUUC Bulletin Board



CUUC Spiritual Cinema



A evening at the theater anyone?

The Tree of Life: Like None

Other is coming in August. Brad

Pitt, Sean Pen, Jessica Chastain star

in this amazing story centers around a family with three boys in the 1950s interspersed with imagery of the origins of the universe and the inception of life on Earth. Please let me know if you are

Directory Contact Information

A new directory will be coming out soon, with the changes in the committees and board! We need to start now with getting your contact information. Please complete the form below and mail to the church at CUUC, 2819 W. Sylvester St, Pasco, WA 99301. We would like to list ages of children, if you and they wish. Don't list anything you don't want everyone to know!

*Name _____ Member _____ Yes _____ No

Email _____

Phones: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

*Name _____ Member _____ Yes _____ No

Email _____

Phones: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

*Children:

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

*Address _____

*City _____ *State _____

*I'd like to have the above information in the Directory _____ Yes _____ No

